

THE  
C A S E

Of the poor

## GRECIAN SEAMEN.

**I**T doth often happen, that many of the *English* Seamen dying in their Voyages, or after their Arrival at *Smyrna*, and other Parts of *Greece*, the *English* Merchants are forced to hire *Grecians* to man their Ships for their Return; and many of them such as have Wives and Children at home. These being no Subjects of *England*, but Subjects either to the *Turks*, or to the *Venetians*, ought not to be pressed to serve against their Wills, neither by the Laws of *England*, nor by the Law of Nations, much less by the Laws of Christianity, which require Charity to all Men, and more especially to Strangers. Notwithstanding they are often press'd by our Press-masters; and some, when they come on Shore, press'd again before they have received their Arrears; and detained in Service here to the Damage of their Families at home; and some to save themselves are forced to abscond, and then are prick'd Run, and so lose all. And there are computed to be about 40 or 50 of these now on board Her Majesty's Fleet. All which being contrary to Law, and scandalous in a Christian State, is to be presumed to be done without the Knowledge of the Lord High Admiral or his Council; and therefore may be hoped will be taken into Consideration, and be rectified upon Notice of it, as a matter of more Scandal than Advantage to the State, and indeed of no Advantage at all, since they come not to stay, but to serve for Wages, and would of themselves do so, either in the Navy, or on Merchant-Ships, out of which the more *English* might be spared.

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WERE there no more than this in the Case, it might deserve to be considered by all Persons who have any Sense of *Religion*, or of the *Honour of the Nation*: but upon farther Discourse with an intelligent *Grecian*, it appears to be more considerable: For whereas they might have very considerable *Advantages* in divers respects in the Service of the *Turks*, they choose rather to serve Christians; tho' many of them are very ignorant in the Religion they profess and retain under such Disadvantages, from whence ariseth a *double Obligation* upon all Christian States where they serve; 1. To take Pity on them as *Christian Sufferers*, and for Christianity; and suffer them to enjoy their *Christian Liberty*, to serve whom and where they please for their own Advantage; and to let them who serve have their Wages duly paid without delay or trouble: 2. That some Provisions may be made for their *Instruction*, both at Sea and Land, which may be done without building of Churches or any extraordinary Charge: At Land, by allowing a moderate Maintenance for one or two proper Persons at most, and a convenient ordinary House; and at Sea, by letting them all serve together in the same Ship, and such as goes to their own Country, and one or two fit Persons to instruct them.

But instead of any thing of this, they are commonly so used by our Press-Masters, that they *complain*, that they do but change their Slavery; that they are pull'd and hall'd by the Press-Masters like Dogs out of the Merchant-Ships and put upon Men of War; that they are kept on Service so long that they have no reasonable Opportunity to see or relieve their Families and Relations; that there is little Care taken of them when they are sick at Land, but are often prickt run; and that of those who are kill'd or die at Sea, their Arrears very rarely come to their Relations. All this might be remedied without any Prejudice to the Service of Her Majesty, by an *Order* to discharge them all, and set them free, to engage themselves where they please; and for the speedy Payment of their Arrears.

